

C1

(c) detecting the presence of said axonally-derived protein bound to said at least one monoclonal antibody.

Please amend the claims as follows:

C2

Claim 14 (twice amended). A method of determining axonal damage in the central nervous system of a patient suspected of having a condition selected from primary neuronal injuries, primary hemorrhages, primary vascular injuries, dural sinus laceration or occlusion, traumatic pia-arachnoid injuries, cranial nerve injuries, and secondary traumatic lesions, said method comprising the steps:

(a) obtaining a sample of cerebrospinal fluid from said patient;
(b) treating said sample of cerebrospinal fluid with at least one monoclonal antibody, said at least one monoclonal antibody having been raised against an axonally-derived protein selected from the group consisting of isoforms of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 and fragments thereof; and
(c) detecting the presence of said axonally-derived protein bound to said at least one monoclonal antibody.

C3

Claim 17 (twice amended). A method according to Claim 14 wherein said axonally-derived protein is a fragment of said tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 demonstrating an apparent molecular weight less than 50 kDa.

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Claim 18 (amended). A method according to Claim 17 wherein said axonally-derived protein demonstrates an apparent molecular weight in the range of about 30 kDa to about 50 kDa.

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Claim 19 (twice amended). A method according to Claim 17 wherein said axonally-derived protein comprises the sequence from serine¹⁹⁹ to serine³⁹⁶ of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 20 (amended). A method according to Claim 19 wherein said axonally-derived tau protein lacks the native N-terminal and C-terminal amino acids.

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Claim 24 (twice amended). A method according to Claim 23 wherein said axonally-derived protein bound to said at least one monoclonal antibody is a fragment of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 which is detected through gel electrophoresis and which gives rise to an electrophoresis gel demonstrating multiple protein bands with apparent molecular weights less than 50 kDa.

Claim 25 (twice amended). A method according to Claim 24 wherein said axonally-derived protein bound to said at least one monoclonal antibody is a fragment of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 which is detected through gel electrophoresis and which gives rise to an electrophoresis gel demonstrating multiple protein bands with apparent molecular weights from about 30 to about 50 kDa

C8
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Claim 27 (twice amended). The method of Claim 26 wherein the ELISA employs monoclonal antibodies recognizing tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 present in human cerebrospinal fluid.

A version of these claims showing the specific amendments made is attached.